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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/500,991	02/15/2000	Frank Uhlmann	0652.2040000/REF	3282

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EXAMINER

FRONDA, CHRISTIAN L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1652

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/500,991

Applicant(s)

Uhlmann et al.

Examiner
Christian L. Fronda

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 36, 37, 39-41, 43, 44, and 46-49 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 36, 37, 39-41, 43, 44, and 46-49 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 1 and 1:

6) Other:

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DETAILED ACTION***Election/Restriction***

1. Applicants' election with traverse of Group II represented by new claims 36, 37, 39-41, 43, 44, and 46-49 in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. Since Applicants have not provided arguments to traverse the restriction requirement, the restriction for examination purposes stated in the Office Action dated 8/30/2001 (Paper No. 6) is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.
2. Claims 36, 37, 39-41, 43, 44, and 46-49 are under consideration in this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, 1st Paragraph

3. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.
4. Claims 36, 37, 39-41, 44, and 46-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The claims are directed to any method for identifying compounds that inhibit sister chromatid separation using any protease which has "separin-like cystein endopeptidase activity". The specification, however, only provides a single representative species encompassed by these claims: a human separin protein. There is no disclosure of any particular structure to function/activity relationship in the single disclosed species. The specification also fails to describe additional representative species of these polynucleotides by any identifying structural characteristics or properties for which no predictability of structure is apparent. Given this lack of additional representative species as encompassed by the claims, Applicants have failed to sufficiently describe the claimed invention, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms that a skilled artisan would recognize Applicants were in possession of the claimed invention.

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd Paragraph

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claim 36, 37, 39-41, 43, 44, and 46-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omission amounting to a gap between the steps. See MPEP § 2172.01. The claims do not recite steps that show how the inhibiting effect of the test compound inhibits sister chromatid separation in eukaryotic cells.

7. Claims 36, 37, 39-41, and 44-49 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 36, the phrase "separin-like cystein endopeptidase activity" renders the claim vague and indefinite because the meaning of the phrase is not known, and it is not known when an enzyme/protein is or is not a "separin-like cystein endopeptidase". Claims 37, 39-41, and 44-49 which depend from claim 36 are also rejected because they do not correct the defect of claim 36.

In claim 29, the phrase "co-factor of said protease" renders the claim vague and indefinite because the specific identity and structure/function of the co-factor of the protease which has "separin-like cystein endopeptidase activity" is not known and not defined in the specification.

In each of claims 45 and 46, the phrase "fragment or variant thereof" renders the claim vague and indefinite because the specific sequence/structure of the plant/human SCC1 "fragment or variant thereof" is not known and not defined in the specification.

In claim 47, the phrase "cleavable fragment or variant thereof" renders the claim vague and indefinite because the specific sequence/structure of the "cleavable fragment or variant thereof" of the polypeptide with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1 is not known and not defined in the specification.

Conclusion

8. No claims are allowed.

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

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disclosure. EP 1227160 A1 teach a method for identifying separase inhibitors based on active forms of separase (see entire publication).

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christian L. Fronda whose telephone number is (703)305-1252. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ponnathapura Achutamurthy, can be reached at (703)308-3804. The fax phone number for this Group is (703)308-0294. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group 1600 receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0196.

CLF



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